

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 19-21 are newly added. Claims 1 and 19-21 are independent. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly on claim 1.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 is objected to for minor informalities. Claim 6 has been amended to recite “wherein the elementary pattern comprises” rather than “is has.” Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 has been amended for purposes of clarification. No new matter is added by way of this amendment. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at least in paragraphs [0011]-[0013] of the Publication of the present application, US Publication No. 2006/0119206, and in original claims 6-8.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,663,605 ("Evans"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the elementary pattern includes at least one reluctance pole. *See* Specification, Figures 2-3 and original claims 6-8. The reluctance pole enables a variable power of the rotor by modulating the number of poles on the rotor. *See* Specification, page 11-12. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Evans fails to disclose the aforementioned limitation of the claimed invention.

The Examiner merely cites Figure 1 of Evans in asserting that Evans discloses a reluctance pole, without providing any details as to which element of Evans the Examiner is equating with a reluctance pole. *See* Office Action mailed June 26, 2008, p. 4. However, a close read of Evans reveals that Figure 1 of Evans does not, in any way, disclose a reluctance pole. Rather, Evans discloses a rotor (10) comprises twelve magnetic poles. Six of the poles are formed by permanent magnets and the remaining six poles are wound poles magnetized by field windings (*see* Evans, Figure 1 and col. 2, ll. 36-41 and 44-50). However, Evans is completely silent with respect to the rotor including at least one reluctance pole. As anyone of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate, a magnetic pole is completely distinct from a reluctance pole and does not represent resistance to magnetic flux.

In view of the above, it is clear that Evans fails to support the rejection of amended independent claim 1. Pending dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of US Patent No. 6,847,143 ("Akemakou"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Evans fails to teach the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Akemakou fails to supply that which Evans lacks, as evident by the fact that the Examiner relies on Akemakou solely for the purpose of teaching that the device may be used as an alternator-starter. See Action mailed June 26, 2008, p. 7. In view of the above, it is clear that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Evans and Akemakou, whether considered separately or in combination. Dependent claim 18 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

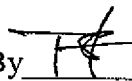
New independent claims 19-21 recite various elements separated by a reluctance pole. No new matter is added by way of the new claims. Support may be found, for example, in original dependent claims 6-8 and pages 11-12 of the Specification. As Evans fails to disclose a reluctance pole, it follows that the new independent claims are patentable over Evans. Accordingly, favorable consideration of the newly added independent claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17170/006001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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